

Message Text

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71
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

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O 102130Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, AR (WEEKS, JAMES MARTIN)

SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OCCURRED AT DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
TODAY:

QUOTE. Q. FRED, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON FATHER WEEKS,
IN ARGENTINA, AND WHAT YOU ARE DOING BESIDE THE USUAL?

A. AS YOU KNOW, FATHER WEEKS WAS ARRESTED, AND IS IN
DETENTION AT THE MOMENT BY THE ARGENTINIAN GOVERNMENT.
THE ARGENTINIANS INFORMED US OF THIS FACT, THAT HE HAD
BEEN DETAINED FOR ALLEGED "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES."

WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN CONSULAR ACCESS TO FATHER
WEEKS. AS YET WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO GAIN THAT ACCESS.

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Q. DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE HE HAS

BEEN ARRESTED.

A. THAT IS MY UNDERSTANDING.

WE ARE ACTIVELY AND URGENTLY TRYING TO GAIN CONSULAR ACCESS TO HIM.

Q. WHEN WAS HE ARRESTED, FRED?

A. THE DATE OF HIS ARREST, I BELIEVE, WAS EITHER AUGUST 4TH OR 5TH.

Q. AREN'T THEY DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON THIS CONSULAR ACCESS? I MEAN, THE ARGENTINES. IT HAS BEEN SEVEN DAYS SINCE HIS ARREST.

A. YES, IT HAS BEEN AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS. THEY HAVE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT PROCEDURES, AND I AM NOT AWARE OF THE PRECISE NATURE OF WHAT THE PROBLEM IS. I DO KNOW THAT WE ARE PURSUING IT AS ACTIVELY AND AS DILIGENTLY AS WE CAN, GIVEN THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AT THE MOMENT.

I DON'T REALLY HAVE MUCH MORE THAN THAT. UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE198405
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FERONDON:ARA/PAF:MYOHN:JC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760308-0180
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760867/aaaacgqm.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OCCURRED AT DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING TODAY
TAGS: CASC, AR, (WEEKS, JAMES MARTIN)
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006